



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office • Boise - Chubbuck - Spokane
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2010

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Partnership Effort Publishes "A Guide to Southern Idaho's Freshwater Mollusks"

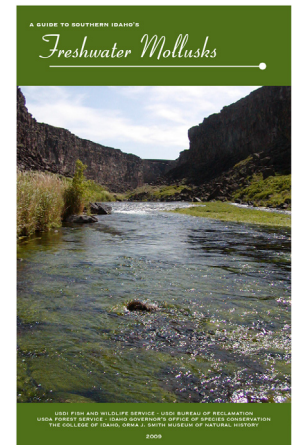
BOISE, IDAHO - A group of federal, state and university partners has published "A Guide to Southern Idaho's Freshwater Mollusks."

The field guide, designed to be used by the lay citizen and natural resource specialists alike, will enable field identification of southern Idaho's freshwater snails and clams through photographs, illustrations, and species descriptions. It is hoped that the guide will help greater numbers of people learn more about Idaho's freshwater mollusks and the healthy aquatic habitats they depend on. The guide also contains information about invasive species that threaten Idaho's waters and how citizens can prevent damage to Idaho's freshwater systems.

Most of the mollusks can be identified based on their physical appearance, geographic distribution, and other characteristics contained in the full-color guide. Common habitat type and general range maps are also included in the guide for each species. In some cases, collection of mollusks for identification purposes is appropriate, and the guide addresses collection and reporting procedures. Samples will be deposited in The College of Idaho's Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History.

"A Guide to Southern Idaho's Freshwater Mollusks" is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, USDA Forest Service - Rocky Mountain Research Station, The College of Idaho's Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History and the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

The publication is free, and may be obtained by contacting Meggan Laxalt Mackey at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 208-378-5796; margaret_laxalt_mackey@fws.gov, or accessed online at <http://www.fws.gov/idaho>.



*Working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats
for the continuing benefit of the American people.*